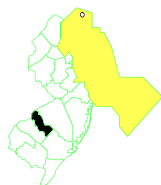


PUCHACK WELL FIELD NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD981084767



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 01
Camden County
Pennsauken Township

Site Description

The Puchack Well Field Superfund Site consists of six public supply wells owned and operated by the City of Camden, located in Pennsauken Township, Camden County, New Jersey. A seventh public water supply well was reportedly destroyed during construction of the Betsy Ross Bridge that connects New Jersey and Pennsylvania, over the Delaware River. Contamination was first detected at Puchack in the early 1970s with the presence of trichloroethane (TCE), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), tetrachlorethane (PCE), and chromium compounds in well No. 6. Further sampling indicated the presence of total and hexavalent chromium at concentrations above the U.S. Public Health Standards Maximum Contaminant Level, which resulted in the well being removed from service in 1975. Contamination continued to spread to remaining Puchack supply wells, and all wells were removed from service in the mid 1980s, except well No. 1, which the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) allowed to be pumped at approximately 800,000 gallons per day, to help prevent the plume from spreading to other public supply wells. Well No. 1 was removed from service in May 1998. The area encompassed by the Puchack Well Field is approximately 450,000 square feet, or 10.33 acres. The Puchack Well Field Site went final on the National Priorities List (NPL), March 6, 1998.

Site Responsibility: The Site is Federal lead, and is currently being addressed by a combination of Federal and State actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 09/25/97

Final Date: 3/6/98

Threats and Contaminants



Site groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethane (TCE), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), and tetrachloroethane (PCE), as well as with the metals chromium and small amounts of mercury.

Cleanup Approach

The Site was initially being addressed by the NJDEP, however, as of March 6, 1998 the Site went final on the NPL and EPA has assumed the lead role. Because of the nature and complexity of the Site, involving a large contaminant plume impacted with chromium and numerous volatile organic compounds, the EPA is handling the investigation and cleanup in two distinct phases, called operable units. Operable Unit 1 (OU1), deals solely with the investigation and cleanup of Site contaminated groundwater. Operable Unit 2 (OU2), deals with the investigation and clean up of the source areas that contributed to the groundwater contamination. The OU1 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is currently underway. The field work portion of the OU 1 RI involved the installation of approximately 64 groundwater monitoring wells in the local area, surveying, and the collection of groundwater samples. This work was completed in August 2001. As a major part of this effort, the U.S. Geological Survey is constructing a groundwater computer model to better understand the complex Site hydrology and geochemistry. A Record of Decision (ROD) for OU1, which will outline the selected remedial approach to the groundwater contamination is currently scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2003. A subsequent RI/FS for the source areas (OU 2) is being scoped and the work plan is schedule to be completed in the Summer of 2002.

Response Action Status



Immediate Actions: In October 1991, the NJDEP issued a Directive and Notice to Insurers to a number of companies in the vicinity of the Site that may have been responsible for discharging hazardous substances that contaminated local groundwater.

However, it should be noted that the EPA's and the NJDEP's efforts vary in scope. The NJDEP's efforts are concerned with addressing the regional groundwater contamination problems located within the local area of Pennsauken Township, whereas the EPA is primarily focusing activities to address the specific sources of contamination that have impacted the Puchack Well Field. At this point, the EPA has not identified specific sources of groundwater contamination, nor named PRPs for the Puchack Well Field Superfund Site. All of the Puchack Well Field groundwater wells have been shut down and removed from service due to the contamination.



Removal of Contaminants: The Site is in the middle of an RI/FS. As such, no remedial system is in place for removing or treating the groundwater contamination.

Site Facts: The Site went final on the NPL in March 1998, and is in the middle of the OU1 RI/FS to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination. A Record of Decision (ROD) for OU1, which will outline the selected remedial approach to the groundwater contamination is currently scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2003. In addition, the Site is in the initial planning stages of the OU 2 RI/FS, to address the specific source areas of groundwater contamination. The OU2 RI/FS work plan is presently scheduled to be completed in the Summer of 2002. As no

Puchack well field wells are in service, no one is currently being exposed to Site contaminated groundwater.

Cleanup Progress **(Threat Mitigated by Physical Clean-up Work)**

Because of the nature and complexity of the Site, EPA divided the investigation and cleanup into two phases, called operable units. OU1 deals solely with the investigation and cleanup of the contaminated groundwater. OU2 deals with the investigation and clean up of the source areas that are contributing to the groundwater contamination that impacted the Puchack Well Field. The fieldwork for the OU1 RI was completed in August 2001. The Record of Decision (ROD) for OU1, is scheduled for the Fall of 2003, following a public meeting and comment period. The RI/FS work plan for OU2 is expected to be scoped in the Summer of 2002.